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**When You  
Change  
Retirement Systems**

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*California  
Public Employees'  
Retirement System*



## Changing Retirement Systems

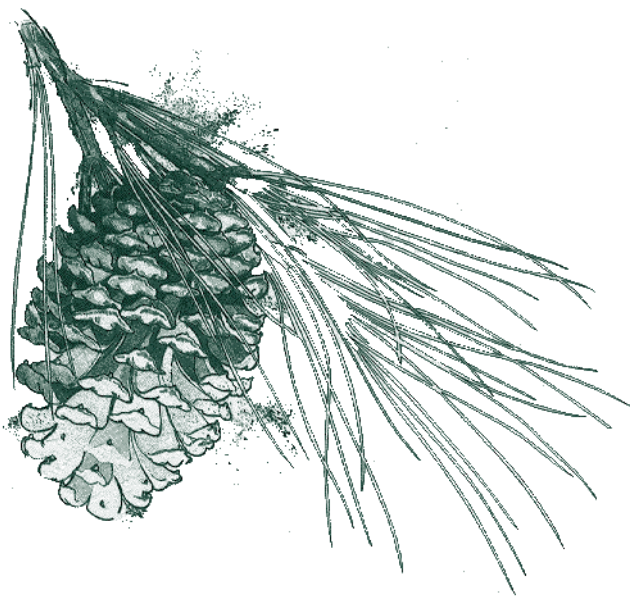
### When You Change Retirement Systems

This brochure provides information on the rights and benefits afforded CalPERS members in conjunction with certain other public retirement systems in California.

As you read this information, please note that CalPERS authority extends only to applying and implementing the Retirement Law; it does not extend to laws and regulations under which other public retirement systems are administered.

Questions relating to rights, benefits, and obligations under any of the other public retirement systems should be addressed directly to the appropriate system.

Please note that reciprocity is a complex subject. If you have questions while reading this pamphlet, call a CalPERS representative at (800) 352-2238.



**Jeffrey Pine**  
*Pinus jeffreyi*

Also called the Bull Pine, this tree prefers the dry, granite slopes of California's high Sierra. The bark and twigs of this pine, when crushed, smell of lemon and vanilla.

### Reciprocity

CalPERS has an agreement with many public retirement systems that allows movement from public employer to public employer, within a specified time limit, without losing valuable retirement rights and related benefits. This is called "reciprocity."

There is no transfer of funds or service credit between retirement systems when you establish reciprocity. You become a member of *both* systems and are subject to the membership and benefit obligations and rights of each system (for example, minimum retirement age), except as modified by the reciprocity agreement. You must apply to retire from each system separately, and you will receive separate retirement allowances from each system. You must retire on the **same date** from *each* public retirement system participating in a reciprocal agreement for all benefits of reciprocity to apply.

The public retirement systems that have established reciprocity with CalPERS are listed in the next section. **Note:** *Even if you do not qualify for the full benefits of reciprocity, certain benefits may still be available to you from CalPERS. See page 5 for more information.*

In addition, although there is no reciprocity established between CalPERS and the State Teachers' Retirement System, the Judges' Retirement System I, or the Legislators' Retirement System, an agreement with those systems provides similar benefits, which are explained on page 6.

## Public Retirement Systems With Reciprocity

### County Systems

Counties that maintain retirement systems under the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937:

Alameda	Sacramento
Contra Costa	San Bernardino
Fresno	San Diego
Imperial	San Joaquin
Kern	San Mateo
Los Angeles	Santa Barbara
Marin	Sonoma
Mendocino	Stanislaus
Merced	Tulare
Orange	Ventura

### Public Agencies

City of Concord  
City of Costa Mesa (safety employees only)  
City of Oakland (non-safety employees only)  
City of Sacramento  
City of San Clemente (non-safety employees only)  
City of San Diego  
City and County of San Francisco  
City of San Jose  
Contra Costa Water District  
County of San Luis Obispo  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
East Bay Regional Park District (safety employees only)  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Non-Contract Employees' Retirement Income Plan, formerly Southern California Rapid Transit District)  
City of Los Angeles  
Long Beach Schools Business Management Authority

### UCRP

The University of California Retirement Plan (UCRP).

## Establishing Reciprocity

When changing retirement systems, you must satisfy certain statutory conditions in order to receive the full benefits of reciprocity (and to realize the highest final compensation):

- you must continue membership in the first retirement plan by leaving your service credit and contributions (if any) on deposit (or by later redepositing contributions you have withdrawn); **and**
- you must enter employment that leads to membership in the new system within six months\*; **and**
- you must retire on the same date under both systems.

Important: Reciprocity does not apply when employment and membership continue in the first system and concurrent employment results in membership in another system, since you have not discontinued employment and have not changed from one system to another. If you are concurrently employed, and no change in employers occurred, we will use your highest rate of pay under **CalPERS** when computing your retirement allowance.

Reciprocity does not apply if you changed membership before reciprocity was established between CalPERS and the other system. (However, some benefits may still apply. See **CalPERS Benefits for Non-Qualifying Individuals** on page 5.)

- \* Eligibility for reciprocity is determined by the retirement laws in effect at the time of movement between employers and retirement systems. Current CalPERS law requires movement within six months.

### **Mountain Hemlock** *Tsuga mertensiana*

The Mountain Hemlock can be found from Southern Alaska to California. At high elevations the usually tall tree becomes a creeping shrub, providing cover and seeds for birds and foliage for mountain goats.



## Reciprocity Benefits & Requirements

The following benefits and requirements apply to CalPERS members who make a qualified move between reciprocal systems.

- **Age at Entry:** Retirement formulas for CalPERS Miscellaneous members and most Safety members are based on a fixed rate of contribution and are not affected by age at entry. However, other systems may use age at entry for their calculations. Check with the appropriate system for information.
- **Highest Final Compensation:** CalPERS will compute your final compensation based on the highest rate of pay under any system, as long as you retire on the same date from all systems. (Exceptions: If you retire on a service retirement from the other system before you have met the CalPERS minimum retirement age, you can *later* retire under CalPERS, and we will still use your highest rate of pay under **any** of the systems. If you became an elective or appointed officer on or after July 1, 1994, we will use your highest rate of pay under CalPERS.)

- **Disability Retirement:** If you are eligible for disability retirement from your other system (or disability income from the University of California Retirement Plan), you may also be entitled to CalPERS disability retirement benefits, **if** you retire from both systems on the same date. CalPERS will pay an amount that does not exceed the difference between what you are going to receive from the other system and what you would receive if all your CalPERS service were also credited with that system. (If this calculation does not increase your allowance, we will pay an annuity that is the actuarial equivalent of your CalPERS contributions.)

If you retire from your other system because of a work-related disability, CalPERS will pay an annuity that is the actuarial equivalent of your CalPERS contributions.

If you meet the CalPERS minimum age requirements, you may find it to your advantage to take *service* retirement from CalPERS and still take disability retirement from your other system.

- **Pre-Retirement Death Benefits:** If you die prior to retiring while you are employed as a member of another system, the CalPERS Special or Basic Death Benefit may be payable; however, the total amount of death benefits cannot exceed the maximum allowable under the other system.

## Reciprocity and Non-Qualifying Individual Benefits & Requirements

- **Redeposit Rights:** If you withdrew your CalPERS contributions and interest and later joined a reciprocal retirement system, you can re-establish CalPERS service credit and membership by making a redeposit.
- **Refund Restriction:** You may not withdraw your CalPERS contributions once you have entered employment covered by the University of California Retirement Plan or if, within six months of leaving State service, you entered employment covered by a system under the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 or covered by certain *other* public agency retirement systems.
- **Vesting:** If you are a CalPERS member who is also a member of a reciprocal retirement system, you are eligible to retire from CalPERS without meeting the CalPERS minimum service credit requirement (but you must still meet the minimum age requirement).
- **University of California Retirement Plan Final Compensation:** The average pay rate during any 12-month or 36-month period of employment with the University of California will be used for computing final compensation, **if** you retire from both systems on the same date.

### CalPERS Benefits for Non-Qualifying Individuals

Even if you do not qualify for full reciprocity, CalPERS offers you redeposit rights, vesting, and University of California Retirement Plan Final Compensation. In addition, if your employer established a reciprocal agreement with CalPERS *after* you changed membership, and you *would have been* eligible for reciprocity had an agreement been in effect at the time of your membership change, your retirement allowance will *still* be based on the highest final compensation under either system (see page 4), as long as you retire on the **same date** under both systems.



**Sierra Redwood**  
*Sequoiadendron giganteum*

The Sierra Redwood and Coast Redwood are California's State trees. Also called the Giant Sequoia, this rare species is among the world's oldest trees, some being as old as 3,200 years. The Sierra Redwood grows to 250 feet and has a trunk diameter of up to 20 feet, yet the cones are never longer than four inches. The majority of these redwoods are protected in California's national and State parks.



## Non-Reciprocal Public Retirement System Benefits & Requirements

There is no *formal* reciprocity established between CalPERS and the following systems:

- State Teachers' Retirement System (STRS);
- Legislators' Retirement System (LRS); and
- Judges' Retirement System I (JRS I).

However, the following benefits and requirements apply to CalPERS members who enter employment with these systems.

- **Final Compensation:** CalPERS will compute your final compensation based on your highest rate of pay under STRS, JRS I, LRS, or CalPERS during any consecutive 12-month or 36-month period of service, as long as you retire on the **same date** under both systems. (If you became an elective or appointed officer on or after July 1, 1994, we will use your highest rate of pay under **CalPERS**.)
- **Redeposit Rights:** If you withdrew your CalPERS contributions and interest prior to your employment with (and membership in) STRS, JRS I, or LRS, you have the right to redeposit your CalPERS contributions in order to re-establish CalPERS service credit and membership.
- **Refund Restriction:** You may **not** withdraw your CalPERS contributions once you have entered employment with STRS, JRS I, or LRS.
- **Vesting:** A CalPERS member who is a member of STRS, JRS I, or LRS is eligible to retire from CalPERS without meeting the CalPERS minimum service credit requirement (but must still meet the minimum age requirement).
- **Disability Retirement:** There is no provision for CalPERS disability retirement when you are eligible for a disability benefit from STRS, JRS I, or LRS. You must instead take a CalPERS *service* retirement on the same date you take disability retirement from the other system in order for the provisions of final compensation to apply. (If you retire on a disability retirement from the other system before you have met the CalPERS minimum service retirement age, you can later retire under CalPERS. We will use your highest CalPERS pay rate to determine your final compensation amount.) If you will be receiving a disability allowance from STRS, you can take a service retirement from CalPERS at the same time (if you meet the minimum retirement age) OR at age 60, when the disability allowance under STRS is changed to a service retirement. Either way, you are considered to have retired on the same date under both systems, and CalPERS will compute your final compensation based on your highest rate of pay under either system.



## More Information

### How To Notify CalPERS When You Change Retirement Systems

When you become a member of a reciprocal or non-reciprocal public retirement system (STRS, LRS, or JRS I), you can notify CalPERS by one of the following methods:

- complete the Notification of Change in Retirement System form in this package;
- complete one of the forms in the CalPERS Refund Election Package (public agency or school employees) or the separation document (State employees) when separating from CalPERS-covered employment; or
- submit a written request to the CalPERS Member Services Division, Unit 841 (see **For More Information** for address).

If you are enrolled in the CalPERS Long-Term Care Program and have premiums deducted from your check, you will need to call the Program's Customer Service Center at (800) 982-1775 to find out what steps you need to take to continue your premiums after retirement.

### For More Information

If you have questions or need further information about changing retirement systems, please contact your nearest CalPERS Regional Office.

#### CalPERS Member Services Division, Unit 841

P.O. Box 942704

Sacramento, CA 94229-2704

(800) 352-2238

(916) 326-3240 — Telecommunications Device  
for the Deaf

(916) 658-1224 — FAX

#### CalPERS Regional Offices

Refer to ***Do You Have The Right Number?***

(PERS-PUB-19) for a directory to CalPERS Regional Office locations. (Addresses are also available on the CalPERS On-Line web site.)

#### CalPERS On-Line

[www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov)

While reading this material, remember that we are governed by the California Public Employees' Retirement Law. The statements in this booklet are general. The Retirement Law is complex and subject to change. If there is a conflict between the law and this booklet, any decisions will be based on the law and not this booklet.



## Notification of Change in Retirement System



California Public Employees' Retirement System  
Member Services Division – Unit 841  
P.O. Box 942704  
Sacramento, CA 94229-2704  
(800) 352-2238  
(916) 658-1224 FAX

Please complete and return this document to the address shown above.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Are You Leaving CalPERS?

Date of entry into other system:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of system you will be entering:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Are You Entering CalPERS?

Date you left the other system:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of system you left:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I understand that by accepting employment that provides membership in another California public retirement system I am subject to the laws and regulations administered by each system. I understand that my CalPERS contributions may not be withdrawn while I am in employment as a member of JRS I, LRS, STRS, UCRP, or while I am in employment, entered within six months of leaving State service, in a system covered under the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 or a public agency retirement system listed in this booklet.

Signature

Date



*California Public Employees'  
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*Sacramento • CA 95814*

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